



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interstate 5 Projects Ready to Start

Redding – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is set to begin three key construction projects in Shasta County to improve the safety and operations along the Interstate 5 corridor on Monday July 7, 2003.

Locally, the northbound off-ramp from I-5 to Twin View Boulevard will be widened to provide a second lane, improving the right turn movements and reducing the stacking of vehicles on the off-ramp during the peak travel hours. A \$225,000 contract has been awarded to Ron Hale Construction Co., of Shasta Lake City, to perform the ramp widening construction project. The majority of the work will be completed during nighttime hours to eliminate any traffic congestion problems. Motorists should watch for workers and equipment, reduce their speed and prepare to stop if needed. The project is expected to be complete by early August.

To the north of Redding a \$420,000 contract has been awarded to J.B. Excavating, of Redding, to remove a section of metal beam guardrail (MBGR) and older style concrete barrier at the north end of the Pit River Bridge. Construction crews will replace it with a new style of reinforced concrete barrier along the southbound shoulder and median from Turntable Bay back to the Pit River Bridge. The project is part of a statewide goal to improve motorist safety and reduce worker exposure. The MBGR has been frequently damaged by vehicular accidents and exposes workers to traffic hazards during the repair process. The southbound left lane will be closed with a temporary barrier during the construction, which is expected to be completed by mid-August.

In the Lakehead area, north of Shasta Lake, a \$4.9 million contract to construct six miles of concrete median barrier through the lower portion of the Sacramento River Canyon has been awarded to J.F. Shea Co., of Redding. With a project already underway, close to 14 miles and nearly \$13 million of barrier construction will be underway filling gaps on I-5 and providing traveler safety and protection from crossover accidents between Gilman Road and Sims Road, north of Pollard Flat. Traffic will be controlled lane closures in both the north and southbound direction fast lanes.

Additional features of the project include new drainage structures, sections of paved median, roadside weather information systems to provide real time Internet data and changeable message signs to improve roadway communications with the traveling public. The project is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2004.

A total of 19 locations in Shasta, Tehama and Trinity counties are included in a \$400,000 bridge deck sealing contract at selected bridges along Interstate 5, State Routes 32, 172 and 299. Penhall Company, of San Leandro, will prepare the bridge decks and apply a protective seal coat to preserve and protect against corrosion and provide a new traction surface. Motorists will be subject to one-way traffic controls at the two-lane highway locations with delays of up to six minutes expected Monday through Friday between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Caltrans asks that all motorists be aware of the many highway construction sites throughout northern California this summer and to reduce their speed when approaching the work zones, be prepared to stop at any traffic control station and help protect the many workers that are exposed to the high speed traffic conditions.

“SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE”

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